

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-20 (Cancelled).

21. (New) A safety belt retractor for a motor vehicle comprising:

a housing;

a belt reel for retaining a safety belt, wherein the belt reel is configured to be rotatably secured to the housing by a spring retraction mechanism,

a toothed ratchet wheel rotationally coupled to the belt reel;

wherein ratchet wheel is spring biased in the belt unwinding direction of rotation of the belt reel relative to the belt reel and includes a clearance that allows the belt reel to rotate relative to the ratchet wheel;

a pawl mounted on the belt reel, wherein the pawl is configured to engage one of a ring of teeth secured to a housing in order to stop further draw out of the safety belt;

a rotary acceleration lever pivotally mounted on the ratchet wheel;

wherein the acceleration lever includes a blocking tooth configured to engage an inner toothed arrangement of a toothed ring support member fixed relative to the housing;

wherein the rotary acceleration lever is normally held out of engagement with the inner toothed arrangement by a resetting spring, but comes into blocking engagement with the inner toothed arrangement when rotary acceleration of the reel in the belt draw out direction exceeds a predetermined value.

22. (New) The retractor of claim 21, wherein the rotary acceleration lever includes two lever arms, wherein one of the lever arms includes the blocking tooth, and the other lever arms is arranged relative to the pivot axis such that it exerts a torque onto the rotary acceleration lever in the blocking direction when the lever is exposed to rotary accelerations in the belt draw out direction greater than the predetermined value to thereby cause the rotary acceleration lever to

overcome the force of the force of the spring and rotate to allow the blocking tooth to engage the inner toothed arrangement.

23. (New) The retractor of claim 22, wherein the two arms of the rotary acceleration lever are shaped and are provided with mass such that a torque is only exerted on the rotary acceleration lever when the reel is exposed to rotary acceleration.

24. (New) The retractor of claim 21, wherein abutments are provided on the ratchet wheel to restrict the pivotal movements of the rotary acceleration lever.

25. (New) The retractor of claim 21, wherein a curved elongate hole is provided in the toothed ratchet wheel; wherein the hole receives a guide spigot; and wherein the pawl extends radially inward from the guide spigot and is rotatably mounted on the belt reel about an axis which extends parallel to the axis of the belt reel.

26. (New) The retractor of claim 21, wherein the number and arrangement of the teeth of the inner toothed arrangement and of the inner toothed ring are selected so that when rotation of the ratchet wheel is blocked by engagement of the blocking tooth with the inner toothed arrangement, the teeth of the pawl are aligned with the tooth recesses in the peripheral direction so that a problem-free engagement of the teeth into the tooth recesses is ensured.

27. (New) The retractor of claim 21, wherein the rotary clearance spring has a spring force strong enough to ensure that the toothed ratchet wheel is driven with the same speed of rotation as the belt reel during normally arising rotary accelerations of the belt reel in the belt draw out direction and that the belt reel rotates through the rotary clearance when the blocking tooth is engaged into the inner toothed arrangement.